

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
March 27, 2007
9am – 4pm
NWIFC
Minutes

Attendees:

Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE co-chair
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Butts, Sally	USFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, AMPA
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	Ecology, RSAG Co-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hicks, Mark	Ecology
Hunter, Mark	WDFW, RSAG
Jacobsen, Deanna	Suquamish Tribe
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-Chair
Josephs, Jessica	Rayonier, WetSAG
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fiber, LWAG co-chair
Martin, Doug	WFPA consultant, CMER co-chair
McConnell, Steve	UCUT
Mendoza, Chris	ARC, RSAG Tri-Chair
Miller, Dick	WA Farm Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinalt Indian Nation
Risenhoover, Ken	Port Blakely
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sweitzer, Dave	Washington Hardwoods Commission
Veldhuisen, Curt	Skagit River System Coop

Assignments:

read and know CMER workplan to discuss priorities	all CMER members
UPSAG prepare for Roads presentation to Policy	Black, UPSAG
e-mail Procedures & Standards Manual mods to Nancy	all
process hardwood conversion invoice	Darin
Organize meeting to discuss remote sensing for riparian extensive monitoring component	Black
Complete DFC report	McConnell
Revise DFC 6 Questions	RSAG
Add Jackson, Butts, Miller, Mendoza, Hicks, Deanna Jacobsen to IMW mailing list; send out scope doc to these	Martin

Organize IMW meeting for input prior to next draft	Martin
Bring nominations for new CMER co-chair to April mtg	all CMER
Copy of Dave Price's Powerpoint presentation for Fish Habitat Model to Darin	Jackson
Get any personal files for synthesis-type documents to Darin	ISAG members
Look for Dennis McDonald's ISAG files at DNR	Darin
Add Jessica Josephs (Jessica.josephs@rayonier.com) to CMER list	Nancy
Send letter to Darin	Baldwin, McConnell

Morning Business Meeting:

1. Meeting called to order at 9:10; Nancy is absent
2. February minutes approved with edits from Sally Butts
3. Report back from Policy meeting
 - a) WDOE's request for Type N Experimental funds approved
 - b) Budget retreat discussion – Approved ongoing projects in Tier I and put off approval of new projects until budget retreat. There were two exceptions: Policy did not approve the budget request for the road monitoring project sampling and LHZ and wants to address the funding decision on these projects at their April meeting.
 - c) Policy did not understand UPSAG's request for more Roads money. Did not understand that the increase was due to increase in field costs, not change in statistics, and that without approval, a field season would be lost.
 - d) All new projects on hold until budget retreat. If a project needs approval before budget retreat, SAGs should bring it to Darin's attention.
4. Budget/Project Management (Cramer)
 - a) Would like to schedule separate meeting on this as well as spending some time this afternoon to strategize and re-prioritize projects in light of upcoming budget changes. We don't even have the capacity to spend the \$5M we have planned next year. There are too many projects (20+) on the books- its unrealistic to expect to do all that work. CMER's capacity to manage projects is limited.
 - b) (Schuett-Hames) Greg Stewart (CMER staff geomorphologist) has announced resignation to take a full-time faculty position at The Evergreen State College.
 - c) Projects need to be integrated across scales. Not enough landscape scale work.
 - d) Need to figure out which projects are absolutely necessary now. Only have staff to be able to manage 12-15 projects at a time; better for us to alter project strategy for ourselves, rather than having it handed to us.
 - e) Policy wants to hear from us in June (14-15) re: strategy
 - i) Where are we?
 - ii) Where are we relative to where we thought we would be?

- iii) Does current strategy make sense?
 - iv) Look again at upcoming projects.
 - f) Because efforts are so spread out and thin, we need to ensure that CMER members know their responsibilities, especially, that they are responsible for CMER strategy and related projects.
 - g) Suggestion was made that perhaps backlog of money could be devoted to hiring additional project management in order to allow us to field more projects. PM responsibilities are to ensure project success, help with project startup and logistical support, and to ensure that project is on-task and on-budget.
5. ISPR Update (Cramer)
- a) Has UPSAG study plan to provide Dan Vogt, but needs to clear up some programmatic issues with him before giving him this study plan; has meeting planned for two weeks. UPSAG understands this delay.
6. SAG Requests
- a) SAG Request Protocol (Martin & Sturhan)
 - i) agreed 2 years ago that:
 - (1) requests needed to go to chairs for distribution a minimum of 1 wk prior to CMER meeting. This enables time for members to review and ask questions before the CMER meeting
 - (2) may bring requests in late, but would only be addressed if everyone in room agreed and there was time
 - ii) Mendoza notes that some late SAG requests are due to contracting issues; try to prevent this by setting up contracts appropriately
 - iii) Mendoza requests an update to PSM, including this; He volunteers to help with this; Darin has approved for Nancy to hire someone to do this, get notes to her; Heide requests that we devote a CMER review period to manual and to needed changes (CMER agrees)
 - b) *BTSAG (Butts) Requests approval for Steve Toth to continue as Field Implementation Coordinator for the Eastside Shade/Solar/Temperature studies through 2011 (\$53k)
 - i) BTSAG requests \$52,780 over a 5-year period. Study timeline has extended due to delays in harvest. BTSAG will also be coming to CMER in May for additional funding for the two contractors associated with both components of the study: Shade/Temperature and Solar.
 - ii) Robinson notes that hiring contractors to oversee contractors is not good business; this kind of work should be done by CMER staff.
 - iii) There was confusion about whether CMER can approve a request beyond the upcoming Fiscal Year. Steve Toth's contract expires June 30, 2007, so BTSAG needs to renew the contract for FY 08. Doug proposed to amend request to ask only for approval for the FY 08 request. Revised request to FY08 money only (\$22k). **APPROVED**
 - c) RSAG – Presentation of final progress report for red alder growth & yield data (Dave Sweitzer)

- i) Thanks CMER for support of this project. Dave presented invoice for red alder sampling conducted by the Washington Hardwood Commission for RSAG.
 - ii) Data is being put into an FVS model by USFS in Fort Collins. Model is scheduled for completion in June 2007.
 - iii) There are no riparian plots in the data that CMER paid to remeasure, but there were riparian plots in the data set provided by other contributors. Dave will need to go back to the contributors to see if the riparian plots can be identified. There are 907 plots, 235 treated, 672 untreated beyond planting. Stand age varies from 1-62 years.
 - iv) Latest CMER funding covered measurements on 25 plots at 4 sites on private land in SW Washington.
 - v) Hardwood Silviculture Coop is working with OSU (David Hibbs) to develop a red alder model in ORGANON. They are still working on finding funding.
 - vi) Mendoza also relayed a CMER request for age of plots as well.
 - vii) *Darin will process the invoice.
7. Project Updates (Martin)
- a) Riparian Integration
 - i) Need to set up time to re-meet?
 - (1) Discuss use of Quickbird and 1:32000 aerial photo for vegetation component of extensive riparian monitoring project; *Jenelle will organize meeting for period when Greg is here.
 - (a) Think about overall riparian strategy.
 - (b) Ehinger, Mendoza, Martin, RSAG and CMER e-mail lists.
 - (2) RSAG needs to re-strategize riparian program.
 - (3) Only SAGE task with regard to integration is to install temperature monitors into Eastside Type F sites this spring.
 - b) Report on DFC (McConnell)
 - i) *should be ready for RSAG by April meeting and to CMER before April meeting; Cramer states it MUST happen by April so the report can get to Policy in May.
 - ii) *Cramer notes to RSAG that the “6 questions” document needs to be revised by RSAG.
 - c) Intensive Monitoring Scoping (IMW) (Martin)
 - i) needs more responses to draft scoping document;
 - ii) Heide would like to see a timeline for progress on project
 - iii) *add Jackson, Butts, Miller, Mendoza, Hicks, Deanna Jacobsen to IMW mailing list; send out current draft scope to these additions
 - iv) desired schedule: approved scoping by summer; study design by fall; [what about Independent Scientific Peer Review of study design; approval from CMER and Policy before site selection and implementation??] site selection winter/spring [can site selection happen this quickly?]; implement next year
 - v) Type N Soft Lithology subject needs to be more explicitly noted in scoping doc. Martin intends to clarify this; then CMER should debate whether the

proposed effort is appropriate; Veldhuisen notes we need to get other minds involved now regarding the headwaters component of IMW

- vi) Doug will send out revision by April CMER meeting; keep sending him comments for next two weeks; *Martin will organize ½ day meeting with IMW group in next month prior to next revision; would like to have something on which to base FY08 budget request for June budget retreat
- vii) Mendoza suggests that it may be inappropriate to try to incorporate Type N Soft Lithology into IMW; Martin notes that he does not anticipate having budget in future to do two separate, expensive studies

8. SAG Issues

- a) CMER archives/SAG archives/CMER coordinator position (Cramer)
 - i) moving web site to storage site where can have maps, reports, and data
 - ii) Need to address how to handle the workload that was done by the CMER coordinator position (formerly Heather Rowton).
 - iii) Sturhan has some things in progress; let's discuss more when she is here
- b) CMER co-chair nominations at April CMER meeting
 - i) Doug's co-chair position ends in June
 - ii) The Protocol and Standards Manual suggests that we rotate chairs every two years (June); CMER members recommend chair candidates; must be people the FPB will approve as CMER members (April), The AMPA forms a committee to review the nominees and make a recommendation to Policy; Policy decides (June)
 - iii) WFPA would support Doug in this role should CMER decide so; Nancy will be stepping down next year.
 - iv) Mendoza needs a replacement on RSAG; is taking too much time for Mendoza's responsibilities to his caucus
- c) Camp crew costs and availability
 - i) 10 person crew with supervisor, transportation, tools is \$500/day within designated "circles" around each camp; Teresa sent out information to CMER staff
- d) Dissolve ISAG; form Fish Passage SAG
 - i) Jackson suggests we put the Fish Passage SAG on hold until Policy provides clear direction on where to go with our fish passage research.
 - ii) Heide was concerned that ISAG work has never been summarized and recorded yet; ISAG may yet be called upon to do more, as it pertains to the Fish Model.
 - iii) *Get copy of Price's PowerPoint presentation (with notes if possible) to Darin (Jackson); ISAG members will look through personal files for synthesis documents for Darin; Darin look for Dennis McDonald's files at DNR
 - iv) Mendoza reminds that Policy formed a subgroup to focus on fish passage and then hasn't done anything; ball is in their court
- e) UPSAG Roads project budget (Dieu)
 - i) Policy Committee will be discussing the UPSAG road monitoring project budget request for FY 2007 at their April meeting. UPSAG should be

prepared to go the meeting with more information; include simple description of why 60 sites important

9. CMER spring conference debrief (Martin)
 - a) well over 100 attendees, most of whom stayed through the end
 - b) appreciated that Type N material was not repeat of prior material
 - c) abstracts will be posted on web site; video will be available in about one month
 - d) Curt thought that key point of Conference was to present to people outside of CMER; did those people attend? Yes, representatives of many other agencies as well as some Policy members and Governor's office
 - e) Recommendation that we showcase what we are doing for forest practices; stay away from our difficulties. Others commented that that information is useful to others, not just CMER.
 - f) *Many slides hard to read. We should put out guidelines to speakers for presentations.
 - g) *Place computer on podium
10. CMER Monthly report to Policy
 - a) BTSAG Toth request
 - b) UPSAG road monitoring project budget
 - c) remind them about fish passage/ISAG stuff
11. Updates to CMER web site; CMER list
 - a) Add conference abstracts to web site
 - b) Add Jessica Josephs to CMER mailing list (Jessica.josephs@rayonier.com)
 - c) Baldwin and McConnell will send letter to Darin
12. Next month agenda
 - a) meeting at DNR compound in Tumwater by Olympia Airport; Nancy will send out directions with the agenda
13. Next Science topic
 - a) Extensive Riparian Monitoring Project

Afternoon Session: CMER study areas